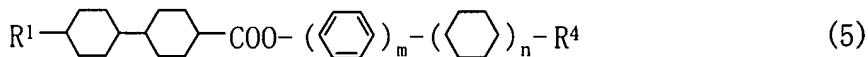
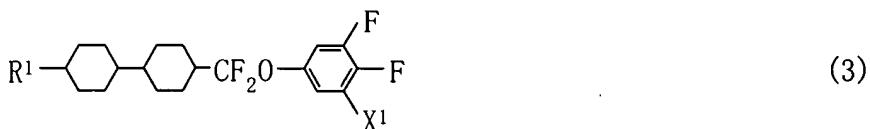
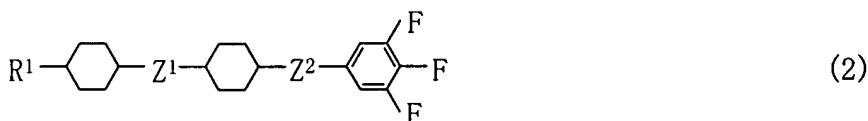
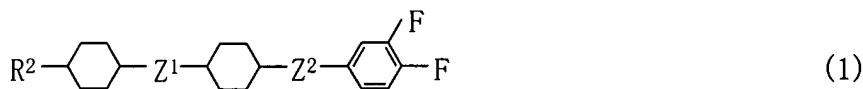


Amendments to the Claims

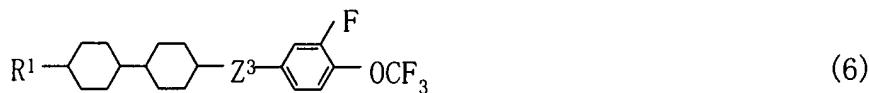
1. (Currently amended) A liquid crystal composition comprising at least one compound selected from the compounds represented by formula (1), at least one compound selected from the compounds represented by formula (2), at least one compound selected from the compounds represented by formula (3), at least one compound selected from the compounds represented by formula (4) and at least one compound selected from the compounds represented by formula (5):



wherein R¹ represents alkyl; R² represents alkyl or alkenyl; R³ represents alkyl, alkoxy, alkenyl or -CF₃, where any hydrogen in alkenyl may be replaced by fluorine; R⁴ represents alkyl ~~or~~ or fluorine; X¹ represents hydrogen or fluorine; Z¹ and Z² each independently represent a single bond or -(CH₂)₂-; m and n each independently represents 0 or 1, and the sum of m and n is 1 or 2.

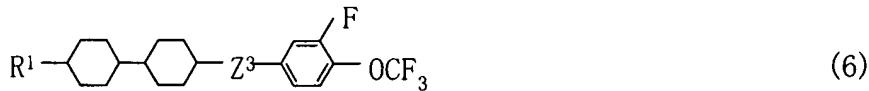
2. (Original) The liquid crystal composition according to claim 1 which contains from 3 to 40% by weight of at least one compound selected from the compounds represented by formula (1), from 5 to 60% by weight of at least one compound selected from the compounds represented by formula (2), from 5 to 50% by weight of at least one compound selected from the compounds represented by formula (3), from 5 to 40% by weight of at least one compound selected from the compounds represented by formula (4) and from 3 to 30% by weight of at least one compound selected from the compounds represented by formula (5), each based on the total weight of the composition.

3. (Original) The liquid crystal composition according to claim 1 which further comprises at least one compound selected from the compounds represented by formula (6):



wherein R^1 represents alkyl and Z^3 represents a single bond or $-\text{CF}_2\text{O}-$.

4. (Original) The liquid crystal composition according to claim 2 which further comprises at least one compound selected from the compounds represented by formula (6):

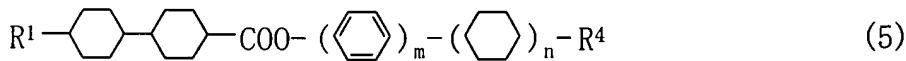
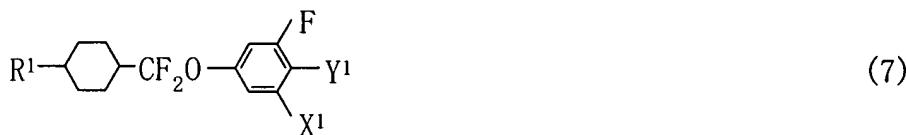
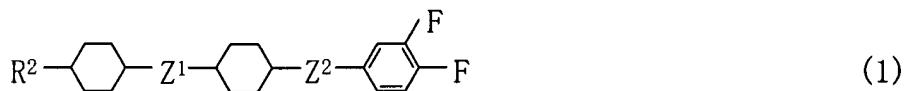


wherein R^1 represents alkyl and Z^3 represents a single bond or $-\text{CF}_2\text{O}-$.

5. (Original) The liquid crystal composition according to claim 3 which contains from 3 to 20% by weight of at least one compound selected from the compounds represented by formula (6), based on the total weight of the composition.

6. (Original) The liquid crystal composition according to claim 4 which contains from 3 to 20% by weight of at least one compound selected from the compounds represented by formula (6), based on the total weight of the composition.

7. (Original) A liquid crystal composition which comprises at least one compound selected from the compounds represented by formula (1) as a first component, at least one compound selected from the compounds represented by formula (7) as a second component, and at least one compound selected from the compounds represented by formulas (4) and (5) as a third component:

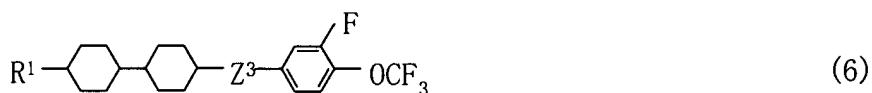
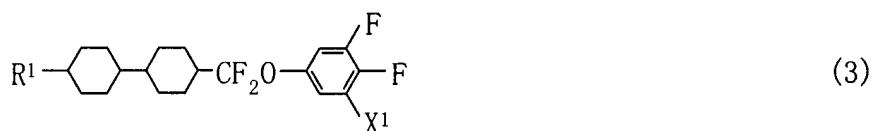
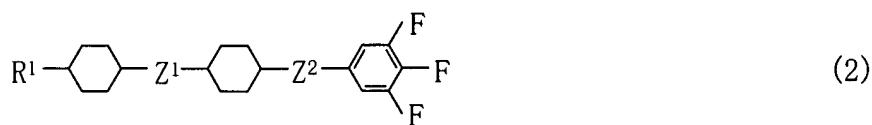


wherein R^1 represents alkyl; R^2 represents alkyl or alkenyl; R^3 represents alkyl, alkoxy, alkenyl or $-\text{CF}_3$, where any hydrogen in alkenyl may be replaced by fluorine; R^4 represents alkyl or fluorine; X^1 represents hydrogen or fluorine; Y^1 represents fluorine or $-\text{OCF}_3$; Z^1 and Z^2 each independently represent a single bond or $-(\text{CH}_2)_2-$; m and n each independently represents 0 or 1, and the sum of m and n is 1 or 2.

8. (Original) The liquid crystal composition according to claim 7 which contains from 5 to 60% by weight of the first component, from 5 to 40% by weight of the second

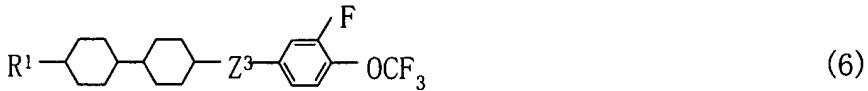
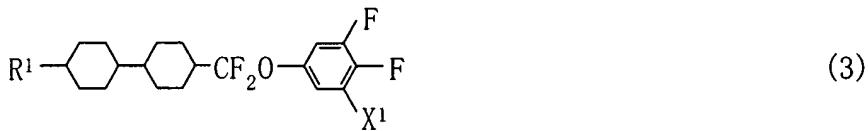
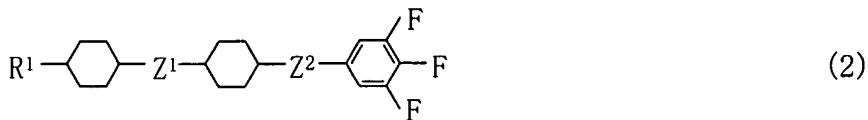
component and from 5 to 60% by weight of the third component, each based on the total weight of the composition.

9. (Original) The liquid crystal composition according to claim 7 which further comprises at least one compound selected from the compounds represented by formulas (2), (3) and (6) as a fourth component:



wherein R^1 represents alkyl; X^1 represents hydrogen or fluorine; Z^1 and Z^2 each independently represents a single bond or $-(\text{CH}_2)_2-$; and Z^3 represents a single bond or $-\text{CF}_2\text{O}-$.

10. (Original) The liquid crystal composition according to claim 8 which further comprises at least one compound selected from the compounds represented by formulas (2), (3) and (6) as a fourth component:



wherein R^1 represents alkyl; X^1 represents hydrogen or fluorine; Z^1 and Z^2 each independently represents a single bond or $-(\text{CH}_2)_2-$; and Z^3 represents a single bond or $-\text{CF}_2\text{O}-$.

11. (Original) The liquid crystal composition according to claim 9 which contains from 10 to 50% by weight of the fourth component, based on the total weight of the composition.

12. (Original) The liquid crystal composition according to claim 10 which contains from 10 to 50% by weight of the fourth component, based on the total weight of the composition.

13. (Currently amended) A liquid crystal display element which comprises a liquid crystal composition described in ~~claims~~ claim 1.

14. (Currently amended) A liquid crystal display element which comprises a liquid crystal composition described in ~~claims~~ claim 2.

15. (Currently amended) A liquid crystal display element which comprises a liquid crystal composition described in ~~claims~~ claim 3.

16. (Currently amended) A liquid crystal display element which comprises a liquid crystal composition described in ~~claims~~ claim 4.
17. (Currently amended) A liquid crystal display element which comprises a liquid crystal composition described in ~~claims~~ claim 5.
18. (Currently amended) A liquid crystal display element which comprises a liquid crystal composition described in ~~claims~~ claim 6.
19. (Currently amended) A liquid crystal display element which comprises a liquid crystal composition described in ~~claims~~ claim 7.
20. (Currently amended) A liquid crystal display element which comprises a liquid crystal composition described in ~~claims~~ claim 8.
21. (Currently amended) A liquid crystal display element which comprises a liquid crystal composition described in ~~claims~~ claim 9.
22. (Currently amended) A liquid crystal display element which comprises a liquid crystal composition described in ~~claims~~ claim 10.
23. (Currently amended) A liquid crystal display element which comprises a liquid crystal composition described in ~~claims~~ claim 11.
24. (Currently amended) A liquid crystal display element which comprises a liquid crystal composition described in ~~claims~~ claim 12.